

A Discoverie

OF THE VNNA

TVRALL AND TRAITEROUS

Conspiracie of Scottischi Papistes, a-
gainst God, his Kirk, their native Cuntry, the
Kingis Maiesties persone and estate.

SET DOWNE AS IT WAS CON-
fessed and subscribed bee M. George Ker, yet re-
maining in Prison, and David Grahame of Fentrie,
iustly executed for his Treason in *Edinburgh*, the 15. of
Februarie 1592.

Wherevnto are annexed, certaine intercepted
Letters, written by sundrie of that faction,
to the same purpose.

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the Kingis Majestie.



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TO THE READER.



Manie and dangerous poynts (good Reader) of
unnaturall & treasonable practises of Scot-
tish Papiſts, or (as they will needes be ſtyled)
Catholicke Romans, againſt God, his Kirk,
their native Conntrey, and the Kinges Ma-
jeſties eſtate and perſone, beeing diſcovered by Godes
great and mercifull providence, partly by the depoſitions
and confeſſions of ſome of the practiſers themſelves, & nam-
ly, Maſter GEORGE KER, who for that cauſe is impri-
ſoned: and DAVID GRAHAME of FENTRIE juſtly execut-
ed for the ſame alſo, in Edinburgh the 15. of Februaire 1592.
& partly by diuerſe letters of ſundrie of the practiſers, inter-
cepted at diuerſe tims. It is thought good by the Kings Maje-
ſtie, and his honourable Counſell, that the moſt ſubſtanti-
all poynts of the ſaid depoſitions, ſhould be faithfully taken out of
the originals, which were deponed and confeſſed by the ſaide
M. GEORGE, & DAVID GRAHAME of FENTRIE,
before the honourable perſons depute by the Kings Maſeſtie,
& his hienes Counſell to that effect, and ſubſcribed with their
own hands, and for the greater eaſe of the memory of the rea-
der, ſhould be ſummarily gathered into this forme following,
which otherwiſe were ſcattered here & there in their depo-
ſitions, according to the occaſion of the diuerſe demands at
diuerſe dyats: for the reader taking up whereof, the times of
the depoſitions & perſons deponers, ſeverally and coniunct.

TO THE READER.

ly as the matter craveth, should be set down in marginal quotations: As also, that some of the most remarkable letters of the practisers, should be joyned herunto word by word, quhilkis were intercepted with Master George Ker, and the rest decyphered and translated as after shall appeare, and so the whole together to be imprinted, and set foorth vnto the view of the world, to the glory of Gods Majestie (the only revealer of these secrets) to the comfort and edification of his Kirk, & the perpetuall detection & shame of the unnaturall enemye. Al quhilk things are so faithfullie done in this volume following that no man how impudent so ever he be, can iustly chalenge it with any falsifying, forging, or changing one thing for another to the wresting of the original depositions in any the lest substantial part therof, as by conferring this extract with the first records which are in the Clerks hands, most evidently shall appear, if any list to looke upon them. Thou art therefore (good Reader) gretly to consider the goodnes of our God in this case, so watchfull over his Kirk, for the good and safetie thereof, by discovering sik deep and dangerous practises of the deadly enemye, euen then, when as we thinking nothing lesse, are ready to be surprised by their close courses so cunningly & craftily conveyed: as we may well say with the Prophet, our soule is escaped, euen as a bird out of the snare of the Fowlers, &c. As also, thou art to be wakened up, to the eirnest consideration of the diligence force and crueltie of our enemies (quhilk yet is nothing abated, but more eiger presently than ever hertofore to atchieve their druelish intent) and no waies to trust them or be secure, as though they wer sleeping and minding no danger to vs, while in the meane time, so deeply and deadly they conspire within and without, with so great force & craft against our Religion, landes, and lives that they dare be bold in their

pride

TO THE READER.

pride, to assure the Spaineard of no resistance heir to their cru-
 ell interprise, as by their awin bragging words hereafter in
 their Letters evidently shall appeir: yea, all kindly native Scot-
 tish mē, & true lovers of the Christian religion ought speedily
 & substantially to concur, to the withstanding & overthrow-
 ing of this our cōmon enemy, within our awin bowels whose
 unnaturalnes, barbarity & hie attempt, can be matched with
 no example domestick or forraine that we read off, whether we
 consider the cruell barbarousnesse of the Spaineards to whom
 they have sold their cuntry, K. & people (whereof let the monu-
 ment written by one of their awin Fryers against the Spanish
 cruelty, besid experience whereuer they are masters be a witnes)
 or whether we consider their most deceitful dealing, covering
 their most bloody purposes with cloake of most tender friend-
 ship, quhilk most closely they have counterfeited by subscription
 to the true Religion, by hearing of the worde preached, and
 common profession thereof with vs, and participation of the
 Sacraments, by bandes, finally affinities, othes, and al attesta-
 tions and lawes sacred and humane that might seeme: to pro-
 cure credite amongst men, and many other things to bee en-
 larged in time and place, as mens callings in Kirke and po-
 licy craues: Consider, and consider again (good Reader) what
 should be the estate of all honest and godly men, their wiues &
 daughters: the estate of Kirk, common weale and Prince, yea
 and of these miserable wretches themselves, if their purpose
 to make the Spaniard our master (for no man seruand nor
 fellow will that proud beast be) shuld tak effect: O miserie, mise-
 rie, miserie unspeakable, especialy to themselves, if their wofull
 purpose succede to their minde and farre proceeded practises.
 wherefore yet again it is hie time and more, that all good men
 and lovers of their native Cuntry be wakened up to true re-
 pentance

TO THE READER.

penance to the Lord, who so heavily threatneth, and in a part
already striketh: and to a diligent and substantiall concurring
every one according to his calling and place, both in land and
Burgh to withstand these desperate attempts before they passe
remedy, and tyme to prevent the farther danger, by assisting
the execution of Iustice vpon the rest of the detected traitors
without respect of persons, that so wee labouring
to take evill out of Israel, the Lord who
hath so notabilly begun the work, may
bring it to an happy end, to his
glory and our comforts,
through Christ our
Lord. Amen.

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A DIS.



A DISCOVRSE OF THE VNNATVRALL
AND TRAITEROVS PRACTISES OF THE
Scotish Papists, against God, his Kirke, their na-
tive Country, and the Kings Majesties
person and estate.



Y the Confessions and depositions of Ma-
ster George Ker, and David Grabame of Deponed bee
Fentry. It is discovered, That in March, M. George
1591. Master William Crichtoun (who hath Ker. 3. 5. & 6.
remained these two yeares bygone in Spaine) of Feb. 1592.
Sent to Master James Gordoun, Iesuite,
Father brother to George now Earle of Huntly, Ane
gentle man called Master William Gordoun, Sonne to the
Laird of Aberzeldie with Letters, to let the Catholickes
heere vnderstand, what travell Master William Crichtoun
had tane with the King of Spain since his cōming there; And
that the said King had opened to him, that he had bene de-
ceaved by Englishmen, and wold frō that time forth, embrace
the advise and way which the said Master William wold shew
him both for invading of England, and alteration of Religion
within this Realme. And for that purpose, the said Master
William craved by this Gentleman, to be sent to him so many
blanks and procurations, as could bee had of Noblemen here
for the assurance of his trafficke.

Vpon the sight and refate of the which blankes, sent with Deponed bee
some other discreet gentle-man, having the Noblemens com- M. George
mission, to be filled vp with such conditions, as should be capi- Ker. 3. 5. & 6.
tulat and aggried vpon, betwix the King of Spain, and Master of Feb. 1592.
William.

And deponed
be David Gra-
hame of Fen-
try, the 13. of
Feb. 1592.

Deponed bee
M. George
Ker 3. of Fe-
bruarie 1592.

Deponed bee
M. Georg Ker
3. Feb. 1592.
and be Fentrie
14. of Feb.
1592.

Deponed be
Fentrie 13. of
Feb. 1592.

Deponed be
M. Georg Ker
3. Feb. 1592.

Deponed bee
Fentrie 13. of
Feb. 1592.

Deponed be
David Gra-
hame of Fen-
trie the 13. of
Feb. 1592.

William Criehton, quhilkeis suld haue servit as pledgis, and squireies for the subscribers part, at the landing heire of the Spanisch Armie. It wes concludit, that thair suld have bein sent out of *Spain*, about the latter end of the spring, in this present yeir, 1592. An Armie of thirtie thousand men, to have landed either at *Kirkcudbright*, or at the mouth of *Clyde*, according to the opportunitie of the wind, quhair thay suld have intrin- schit, and fortifeit thame selfis, for the assurance of thame end thair schippis.

And first of all money suld have bein sent to the Catholikes heire, for raising of forces to supplie the said Armie: Quhair of foure or five thousand suld have remainit within this Cuntrie, quhair with the fortification and assistance of the Noble men, Catholikes, thair friends, and sik vther forces as the Spanish money wald raise, suld have immediatly after thair landing, begun to alter thair Religion, presently profest within this Realm, or at lest procurit libertie of conscience, and Papistry to haue bein erected heire: And the rest of the Armie suld have past toward *England* the neereist way, fra their landing to the bordour.

Thir Letters sent fra Master *William Criehton*, beeing contredite be Master *James Gordon* to Master *Robert Abercumby*, wer shawin be him to *David Grahame* of Fentrie at *Abernethie* in Aprill. 1592.

And for effectuating of this mater, it wes anis thocht maist convenient, that schir *James Chesholm*, quhair then wes an of his Majesties Master houshaldis, suld haue gone to *Spaine*, with this Commission, in respect he was vtherwise bownit, towardis his vnclie Master *William Chesholme* (callit Bishop of *Dumblane*) For Schir *James* had the first credeit of this erand with the Nobill men, as he declarit to *David Grahame* of Fentrie that hee had delt with the Erlis of *Huntly*, and *Erroll*, and conferrit with Master *George Ker*, anent this turne, about the time of the last Parliament, haldin in *Edinburgh* in Junii. 1592. as als wa, intercommuned again in his awin house with the same Master *George* in October. 1592. touching the haill heidis of this despatch. Bot Schir *James*,

not

not being abill to be sa soone reddy, and Master George Ker being bownit of the country, it wes thocht best that the same Commission suld be geven to him, and that he suld vndertak the carrying of the said Letteris: And swa hee wes imployed in that erand, the rather, because baith his Guddames were *Criechtens*.

Thairefter, Master George beeing bownit to this Iornay, and reddy to mak sail out of the Fairly Raide at the west sey bank, vpon the 27- of December. 1592, Then (be Gods providence) the said Master Georg was apprehended in the Ile of *Cumray*, and with him thair wes interceptit sundrie missive Letters directit to this purpose. Amongis quhilk, thair wes aught blankis quhair of one is subscrivit

*De vostre Majestie tres humble
& tresobesant serviteur Guil-
liame compte de Anguss,*

An vther blanke is subscrivit

*De vostre Majestie tres humble,
& tresobesant serviteur, Fran-
coyse compte de Erroll.*

And thir twa blankis were baith procurit of thame, beschir James Chesbolme, in their awin Iudgeingis in *Edinburgh*, at the time of the last Parliament in Junii 1592.

An vther blanke is subscrivit

Gulielmus Angusia Comes.

An vther blanke is subscrivit.

Which were baith procurit of thame be Master Robert *Abircramby*, quha was the chiefest travellair in that matter, in October 1592.

Deponed be
Fentie 13. Feb
1592.

Deponed be
M. Georg Ker,
3 Feb. 1592.

Deponed be
Fentie 13. of
Feb. 1592.
Deponed be
M. Georg Ker
3. Feb. 1592.

B

Ané

An other blanke is subscribed

Georgius Comes de Huntlie.

And an other is subscribed

Georgius Comes de Huntlie.

Deponed be
M. Georg Ker
3. Feb. 1592.

Which were both with the whole blanks proponed first to the erle of *Huntly*, by Master *George Ker* in *Strathbogy*, at his passing there.

Deponit be
M. Georg Ker
3. Feb. 1592.
and be Fentry
14. of Feb.
1592.

Which six severall blanks before specified shuld haue bene all filled with missive letters, by the advyse of Master *William Crichton*.

And the other two blankes, making out the number of eight, were both subscribed in the mids of two open throghs of Paper in this maner

Gulielmus Angussie Comes.

*Georgius Comes de
Huntly.*

Franciscus Errollie Comes.

*Patricius Gordoun de Auchindoun
Miles.*

Deponed be
M. Georg Ker
3. Feb. 1592.

Which two last blankes were first subscribed by the Erle of *Huntly*, and *Patrike Gordoun* in October. 1592. And thereafter beeing sent with Master *Robert Abercromby*, to the Earles of *Angus*, and *Erroll*, were subscribed by them in the same Moneth of October 1592. And these two blanks shuld have bene filled vp with procurations, and whatsoever shuld have bene thoght meet, by the said Master *William Crichton*, for the avowance of that which Master *George Ker* had in direction and credite of the subscribers, which credite he received fra the Earle of *Huntlie*, be the report of Master *James Gordoun*, and fra the Erles of *Angus* and *Erroll*, by thame selfis in *Edinburgh*, in the beginning of October. 1592.

Deponed be
M. Georg Ker
5. Feb. 1592.

And the summe of this his credeit, was an assurance, that the Nobill men shuld raise an power of Horsmen, and meet the Spanish

A Discovery of the Spanized Scottish Traitors.

Spanish Armie at their landing, and reciprockly to assist, and accompany and convoy thame in their passing to *England*, be all the forces thay could procure vpon the King of Spains charges; And thir Nobill men subscribers, tooke the burding on thame, and interponit their bandis, for the concurrence of the haill Catholikes of *Scotland* in this cause, and thocht it meit amangis thame sellis for the better secrecie, that nane vther suld be crauit to binde for this erand, but thay three.

Deponed be
M. Georg Ker
5. & 6. Feb.
1592.

With thir aught blankis subscrivit as said is, there wes interceptit stampis in wax, of the Erl of *Angus* seilles of Armes sax, of the Erle of *Hanilew* seils of Armes foure, and of the Erle of *Errols* seillis of Armes three.

David Grabame of *Fentry* deponit, that he met sundrie times sen this purpose wes in hand, with Master *Robert Abircrumby*, as namely, that the first knowledg hee had of this purpose, was be the said Master *Robert* in *Dumfermling*; and thairastir in the Castle of *Striviling*, before Master *George Ker*, his preparation to his Iornay, quhair Master *Robert* shew him, that this Commission wes to be given to the said Master *George* to cause fill the blankis with Master *William Creichtouns* aduise, and that hee was to deliver the same blankis with the vther Letters to him who was to depart and carrie with him all this message.

Deponed be
Fentrie 13. of
Feb. 1592.

Deponed be
Fentrie 14. of
Feb. 1592.

Like as the saids blankis and Letteris, quhilkes were procurit for that erand, wer all delivered by Master *Iames Gordon*, and Master *Robert Abircrumby*, to Master *George Ker*, to bee carryt bee him to Master *William Criehton* Iesuist: And to bee filled vp at the discretioun and direction of the said master *William*, and of master *Iames Tyrie*, quha wes best acquainted with the effairis thair.



FOR THE VNDERSTANDING OF THE
borrowit and counterfait Names, that occurs in the
Letters following (good Reader) thou shalt finde thame
interpret on the margent, quhair thay are poyntit out by
this mark, * quhilk interpretations are contained in the o-
riginall depositions of the practisars, and in some of thair
interceptit Letters.

*A letter directed from an English Iesuit, and intercepted
with Master George Ker, the 27 of December 1592.*

Good Father, the inclosed to my Lord, I pray you reid
and take it as writen to your self: quhat I writ to him, I
writ to you, quhat I crave of him I crave of you, quhat I hop
of him, I hope of you: as of my Patron and Pedagog in *spiritu-
alibus*; as of a man, whose discretioun and moderatioun, I
haue well experimented, in all cases and at all times, If I had
so farre ouerlasched and gon belid my compass as some good
fellowes wald imagine, yet I wonder, that some good men,
haith in their owne conceits, and vther meanis spirituall, will
admit, no excuse, no satisfaction, no purgation: quhen Saint
Paul to the Galathians, in most evident delires settis do wne
this reull amongs the perfect and spirituall: *Frater, etsi pre-
occupatus fuerit homo in aliquo delicto, vos qui spirituales estis,
huiusmodi instruite in spiritu lenitatis, considerans teipsum, ne
et in sentieris.* If I had spoken with you at my last beeing
in *Italie*, as I well hoped, I had perhaps made a better con-
clusion of my busienesse thaire, then I did to my awin con-
tent, and at my Friendis satisfaction, quhilk hop, for all these
stormes. I will never give over, and quhen I leaue by your
meanis, to be vnder the gude habering, I will writ to you of
that subject, The Lord Seyon, in quhair house I sojorn some-
times

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times, salutis zow. Of the affaires of the Catholikes heir, I leave it to them to write and relate, by quhais meanis these Letters shalbe convoyit. My Lord Seyton hath ane haven of his awin, quhilke may be herafter very commodious for our Missions. Commend me I pray you to F. Baitb. Pere &c. Master Dudley Ilper, Knight, and Iohn Tbules, quhilke vpon some sudden pusches of persecution, mak their repair hither ar in health, and salute zow. And Master Syall a Priest dyed heir lately in *Edinburgh*, Love me, and pray for mee, I besek zow all, *solito*. And if zow send ony into these partis, let thame come furnished with all ample facukies as zow may: Let them inquire for one M. *Ionas*, quhilke will beea token betuix vs. Our Lord blesse and send vs to meit anis or we die. Seyton this 2. of October. 1592.

Your ever most assured;
Iohn Cecilio.

Blanke on the back.

A Letter directit from the Erll of Angus, all writen and subscribed with his awin hand, intercepted with M. George Ker the 27. of December. 1592.

MY maist affectioned Commendationes premitte, this present is only to knaw of zour welfare and friendis, and of the estate of maters where ze remaine, and be ane testimonie of my gud affection towards you For God be praised, if you were in this Country, I could do you greater pleasure, nor I was able to do before albeit gude will inlaiked not at na time as ze knaw. The present *bearer can informe zou offik things as occurs with vs, for we are heir dayly subject to alteration. Ye may credite him as my selfe, for so his vertewis dois merite. It is not needfull I trouble zow with his commendation, seing he is to zow that he is, zee knaw his honestie and good intention, and the causes of his parting to quhais sufficiencie referring the rest, my hartie salutations, and my

M. Georg Ker.

A discoverie of the Spanized Scottish Traitors.

my bedfellows, with al our companie zounge and ald remembrit vnto you and your gude company: Commits you with tham to the protection of God, *Edinburgh* the tenth of October after our compt. 1592.

*Yours ever at Power,
Angus.*

To M. William
Crichtoun.

Blanke on the backe.*

A Letter direct from M. James Gordoun, to M. William Crichtoun, interceptit with M. George Ker, the 27. of December, 1592.

M. Georg Ker

Relative to the
blankes.

TRaist friend, after maist hartly commendatiouns, your Friends that ar heir, hath directit this present bearer* to you, for full resolution of all your effairs in thir quarters, we have delayit over lang / grant, but he will shew you the cause of all. The next best is, ye vse al expedition in time comming, against the next Somer: vtherwayis ye will tyne credite heir with your factours. If ye come, ye will finde ma Friendis nor ever ye had, but vtherwise ye wil find fewar: because the next Somer many ar bownit to vther Countries, and will not abid on you na langer, Haist hame heir sum word to your Friends that we may put tham in gude hope of zou, and thay wil rary the langer. The bearer is an honest man, and verie sufficient, ye may credite him as my selfe. I suld haue cummit with him my selfe, wer it not I wes persuadit that ye wald remain on our answere, and because I got an stop out of *Flanders*. As the bearer can shew you, yee haue gotten all that ye desir,* chairfore mak haist. The bearer is cummit to you on his awin charge, therfore ye mon have respect to him. The last bearer that ye send, cam heir behind the hand, and hath gottin na satisfaction as zit, because nathing could be gottin heir, and we could find na man but this, that wald passe on his awin charge: and

and I feare that if hee had not come on his awin expensis, ye
 sould not haue resavit answere sa soone: herfore ye sould treate
 him the better, Wee will abide heir your selfe shortly, and I
 wald ye broght the rest of your friends with you, that ar be-
 yond sea* for if your block passles fordward, they mon be also
 present, vtherwise we mon cum and visit you. All vther effa-
 res of this Country, I will commit to the bearer, quha is faith-
 full. Your wife and your bairnes* commendist hame to you,
 and luikes to se you shortly. If I or Sandesoun* your Friende,
 resavis ony silver fra the bearer, ye shall be adverteist be an v-
 ther tikket, how mekle it is, & subscrivit with baith our han-
 dis. The rest I will referre to the bearer. God preserve you
 ever from all evill. At Dundie the 20 of November. 1592.

The Spanish
 Armie.

The Catholick
 Romanes and
 their confede-
 rates.

M. Robert A-
 bircrumby.

*Yours maist affectioned
 at all his power
 I. Christesoun.**

M. James
 Gordoun.

Direct on the back,
 To his assured friende, George Craufurd.*

M. William
 Creichtoun.

*A Letter directit, fra M. Robert Abircrumby, to M.
 William Crieichtoun, interceptit with M. George
 Ker, the 27, of December. 1592.*

EFter my dew and humble salutations and offer of service,
 I regrate and lamentis havily the sleuth, and negligence
 your Merchands hes vsit in answering of your last suit, ye pro-
 ponit to thame. For appearandly, if they had made answer in
 due tyme our wares had bein heir in due time, with our great
 profite and consolation. The stay and stop of the matter ap-
 peirandly was lacke of expensis, that na man wald of his own
 charges, take that viage in hand, Yea, some cravit a thousand
 crownes for his expensis. Swa the mater was anis halely
 given over and almost clein forzer, vntill it pleasit God of his
 divine Providence to sturre vp this bearer, to take the turn in
 land

The hyperbo-
lical and ridi-
culous com-
mendation
Of M. George
Ker.

This writtis
interceptit
with the rest
are ane char-

hand on his awin expensis: As hee hes bein ever bent in that
cause, not only to spend his gudis, but als wa the thing that is
mair deir to him, that is, his life: chairfoir, I thinke hee suld be
the mair acceptable, as also for the affinitie of bluid: for baith
his guddames was *Creichtouns*. And as for witte and abilitie,
of treating of they effaires, he is not inferiour to nane of your
Merchands quhilk ye desyrit, as ye will persave be experience
godwilling And albeit that he of his couragious liberalitie, &
zeal to the cause, hes tane the mater in hand on his awin char-
ges, yet all your friends in these quarters, thinkes it very rea-
sonable, that all suld be refounded to him againe, *Cum vsura*,
with promotion, till ony vther accident suld fall out, for the
well and furtherance of this cause, &c. But nowe I will say
an word of him, & syn com to sum vther purpois of our own.
If I had an thousand tongues, with as many mouthes, with
Cicero's eloquence, I cannot be worthie enough in commen-
dation of this Gentillman to you and al your companie: As I
fall let you vnderstand godwilling, if ever we fall chance to
meit face for face, And chairfore whensever ye may, prevent
him with ony benefit, eicher be your self, or any other. Abide
not quhill hee crave it at you: for hee is the worst asker in his
awin cause, that ever yee conversit with. *Sed nunc ad alia*. If
ye be right remembrit, at your departing out of this, ye gave
Master *James Mackartnay* an procuratory, to intrommit with
Master *Alexander Homes* litill leving, hee hes heir in East
Loxthiane the quhilk he pedit and obtenit in law, and tuke
vp yeirly rentis chairrof to his awin behuif, and givis his name
of it. In this meane time, there fallis out like *Cummirs* twich-
in that land, that we are able to lose the hail ware first. The
said Master *Alexander's* narrest Friendis and aires, hes in
iudgement prooved him to be deid, and swa enteris aitis to
him. By this, the Laird of *Spot*, his overlord is forsaltit, and
swa the Land wardis swa that we are able to tyne all, if re-
medie be not found. Quhairfore falling in consultation with
Master *Alexander King*, he thocht best to sell the land to him,
and we to vse the Silver on an mair sure maner, of the quhilk
ye fall resave sum wrytings from this bearer, the quhilk ye
will

will vnderstand better nor I. Only I thinke if forme of moy^{tour and ob-}
 an bee not vlit, we sall lose all, and better is to haue sum thing ligation to
 nor lose all. As to the price set ye it downe for he hes mentioned be past by M.
 nane as yet, but hee will give als meekle as any vther, because Alexander
 as he saies, hee hes sum Land lyand contigue to it. I pray yow Home of Pa-
 for an hastie answere of this. I doubt not but yee have heard lywel to M, A-
 how thay youngmen, quhais Faithers was slaine bee the Laird alexander King,
 of Ruyvenis, slewe him againe, quhais Lady is mariet to one his aires and
 James Reid. Camuay is come in the Constables handis, and assignays of
 your Nevoy is private of it, and that be the moyan I trow, of foure husband
 Abraham your brother, but your Maich is litill better nor bego Landis in the
 gand. Drankilbo is dead, and Thomas Tyrie is tutour. I Spott with a
 pray you advertise mee bee what manner, Master Stevin Wil missive letter
 joun hes commit bee my Lord Levingstouns Obligation, the direct bee him
 quhilk ye had of the fourtie Crownes his L^r was owin zou: For to that effect.
 Master Stevin hes gotten these fourtie Crownes, Randerig
 the Obligation quhulke yee had: I durst never make mentiou
 of the hundreth Crownes fra the Father, and fourty Crownes
 fra the Sonne, quhilk ye left mee power to crave, &c. My Lord
 Levingstoun, is departed of this World. Ze heard befoir, that
 David Forester *had ane Sonne, and now hes ane other borne David Gra-
 in the Castle of Striviling, quhair he is in waird, hardly hand- hame of Fen-
 lit. Thair is but ane of our Nobilitie heere, quhilk hes of the K. tric.
 of Spaine, ane pension well payit of twelve hundreth Crow-
 nis, The quhilks appearandly are evill bestowit: For hee nor
 nane of his as yet, hes never done ony kinde of good in the pro-
 motion of the Kingis matters: quhairfore like pensiones were
 better bestowed on vthers, quhatravells dayly and hourly, put- Envy amangis
 ting in hazard baith thair goodes and lives, as this bearer hes the Papists
 done and dayly dois: and vthers, as he can shew yow &c. Be- thamefelis.
 cause I haue na vther thing to write, & haue bein lang enough,
 I commend mee to your prayers, and you to God. At Scot-
 land the 15 of December. 1592.

Yours at his power

Robert Sandesoun.

Direct on the back.

To his trauit friende, George Craufurd.

C

A L E T.

* M. Robert A-
 birumby.
 M. William
 Criccatoun.



A LETTER DIRECTED TO THE KING OF
Spain, bee three Noblemen of Scotland, quhair of, twa bes-
senyne returned to the professioun and defence of the treuth,
bee thair attes and subscriptions quhairfore thair Names are
suppressed, the third his Name expressed, (to witte the Earle of
Huntlie) because he continues as yet in his former wicked course.
This Letter written by thame in name of the Catholike Noble-
men of Scotland, cyphered in French, was intercepted in Ia-
nuarie 1589. lately before the time of the Raide of the Brig
of Die, thairafter was decyphered word by word, and translated
in Scottis as followes.

They are sorry
that the Spa-
nish flote
past by, with-
out landing in
Scotland.

The Span-
yard should
haue had
gret assistance
in Scotland.

SIR, wee cannot sufficiently expresse bee speach, the great
Sregrait wee have consavit, being frustrate of the helpe we
haue so long had to see this year past the desired effects fall out
quhilke we attended of your Majesties preparations. And our
displeasure hes beene sa mekle the greiter, that your Armie Na-
vall suld haue passed by sa neir vs, vnvisiting vs, quha expectie
the same with sufficient forces, for the peaceable recept and as-
sisting thereof, against all enemies in like sort, that it suld haue
had naristance in this Country, and with our support suld
haue given anugh adoe to England, At least, gif it had cummie
heir to refresch it, it had preserved a number of Veschels and
men, quhilk we know have perished neir our Iles, and vpon
the coast of Ireland. And had discovered an incredible number
of friends, in full reddinesse to haue run the same fortune with
it, in like sort, as wee dare well affirme, it suld not haue founde
half sa many in England. for all that is spoken by the English
Catholikes refugit there, quha by emulation, or rather bee ane
vnchristian envie extenuats ouer farre our meanes to aid yow,
to magnifie thair awin only, and make themselves to bee este-
mit able to doe all, to advance thame selfis thairby, in credeie
with

with your Majestie, and sike as are about you, but by experience of this year past, hath sufficiently testified, they have not schawed in themselves in sike number to assist your forces as we have done. And therefore your Majestie, as maist wise, as yee are, Shall gif it pleis you, mak sike accompt of theane, as yee neglect not the vther, and sa serve you with them baith, to the end ze pretend, with hazarding your forces for the particular of the ane or the vther. Wee remit to the declaration of some of your awin subjects that hes beene heir, the commodities and advantages of landing in thir partes, quhair the expensis bestowit vpon the equippage of an Galliasse, shall bring mair fruite to your service, than ye may have often vpon the Sey. And wee may assure your Majestie, that having anis sax thousand men heir of your owne with money, ye may list heir forces of this Country, as freely as in *Spain*, quha will serve yow na lesse faithfully than your owne naturall Subjects. And albeit wee can not without blame of presumption, give your Majestie advise in yourseffairs thair: Alwayes in that, that may concerne your service heir, wee may speake mair freely, as being vpon the place, and knowing the ordinary experience mony things vnknawin to ony of yours that are not heir. The overlate arrivall of your Armie in our watters, tuke from it the commodities, to reteir it selfe in sike safetrie, as it might have done coming soonar, be reason of the great winds that are ordinar heir in harvest: as allwa lacke of Pylotes experimented vpon the coastes of *Scotland*, *England* and *Ireland*, appeares to have bred great harme to the said Armie, quhairvnto wee culd have remedis concerning *Scottlands* to have sent Pilotts from this gif it had likit your Majestie to have servit your selfe with thame. Likewise (saying better advise) it seems to vs altogether vnprofitable to fight the Armie be Sea, gif it may bee eschewit for mony causes: And amongis vthers, because sike as shall have fochten by sea, shall be vnabill, being wearie to feight againe be Land against new forces: Sa the best sould bee, to schift bee ane way or vther, for sparing of your men and Veschels and sware the English forces staying vpon the Sea vnfochten shall be disappointed, and shall not come in time, to assist thame, but shall be

They have informit the K. of Spains subiects wrakit heir of the meanis to doe gude be landing in Scotland.

Advise to the King of Spain how to assault this land hereafter.

A discoverie of the Spanized Scottish Traitors.

Advise to the
King of Spain
how to assault
this Island
hereafter.

With 6000
men sent from
Spaine, & mo-
ney to levie
a power in
Scotland,
they will in
six Oulks bee
far in Englad.

Bruce is the
mouth of
these Lords
to the King
of Spaine and
D of Parme.

assailzeit be Land. Attour, sending heir a part of your forces, before the vther quhilk suld goe the right way to England, and that secretly by the backe of Ireland: Your Majestie suld com- pell the Enemie to divide their forces, and it may bee, suld cause thame send the greatest part heir, quhair yee might make thame believe the greatest part of your forces wer arry vit, at least suld cause thame disgarneis as meekle of England, & drawe a great part of thair forces, quhilk wald resist your landing and inva- sion on that coast. And we may well promise, that having heir sax thousand of your men, and money to lift vthers heir, wee suld wishin sax Oulks after their arrivall bee well farre with- in England, to approache and assist the forces quhilke your Ma- jestie suld cause enter thair. The Knight *William Scimpill* Co- lonell, can shew your Majestie the haill to quhom wee remit. Als wa, wee have causit writ baith before, and sen his depart, our money sik advises bee *M. Robert Bruce*, and causit addresse the same to my Lord Duke of *Parme*, to whome your Majestie remittit vs from the beginning in thir cffaires. And seeing wee hope your Majestie is dewly advertised and informit, wee will end the present, kissing maist humbly your Majesties hand, Praying God with all your affection, to grant you full accom- plishment of all your holy interprises. From *Edinburgh* this 24. of Ianuarie. 1589.

Your Majesties maist humble and affectioned
Servitors, G. *Erle Huntly*, &c.
In name of the vther Lords
Catholiks of Scotland.

*A Letter direct fra the Erle of Huntly, to the Duke of Parme,
interceptit in Iannuarie, &c.*

Letters resavit
fra the Duke
of Parme, bee

MY Lord, I have resavit from *Iohn Chesholme*, the Let- ters it pleasit your Hiennesse to writ, the 13. of October, full of maist Christian affection to the weill of our cause. For the

A Discovery of the Spariſed Scottiſh Traitors.

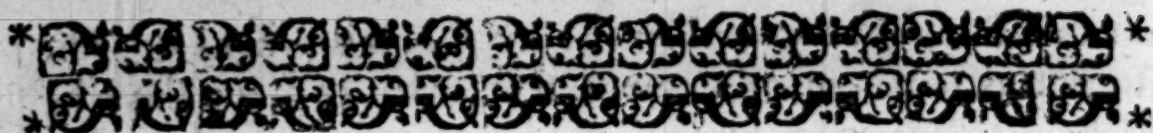
the quhilkis, I give your hieneſſe maiſt humble thankis. The ſupport of ten thouſand Crowns, ſent to that end, is reſſavit be M. Robert Bruce quhilkis ſhall not bee employed but for helpe of the maiſt vrgent neceſſitie of the ſaid cauſe, as it hes pleaſit your Hieneſſe to direct. After the departure of Colenel *Simpill*, I have found my ſelfe ſa boaiſit on all hands, and preſſit in ſik fort, be our King, that it behuiſit mee to yeeld to the extreame difficultie of time, and ſubſcribe with his Maieſtie, not with my heart, the Confeſſion of thair Faith: or vtherwiſe, I had had bene forced immediatly to haue departit the Cuntry, or to haue taken the Fieldis for reſiſting his forces, and ſik as hee might haue drawin out of England to his aide, quhilk I could not have done, eſpecially then, quhen be the returning of your Armie in Spain, all hope of helpe was taken from vs: but if on the one part I have failit bee the apprehenſioun of dangers that threatned my ruine. I ſall on the vther part endeavour my ſelfe to amend my fault, (quhair of I repent me with all my heart) be ſein effect, tending to the well and advancement of the cauſe of God, quha hes put mee in ſike credite with his Maieſtie, that ſen my cuming to Court, he hes broken his former Gardis, and cauſit me eſtabliſh vthers about his perſon of my men, bee the moyen of quhom and their Captaines quha ar alſo mine, I may ever bee Maſter of his perſon: And your ſupport beeing arryvit, ſpulzie the hereticks of his authoritie, to fortifie and aſſure our enterpriſes, quhairvpon I beſeeke your Hieneſſe to ſend me your auiſe, and to aſſure your ſelf of my vnchangeable affectiones in my former reſolutions, albeit the outward aſtiouns bee forced to conforme thameſelfis, ſumtimes to neceſſitie of occaſiounes, as M. Robert Bruce, will mair amplie write to your hieneſſe, to whom I remitte mee ſarder. Praying God, after I haue maiſt humbly kiſſit your Hieneſſe hand, to give yow accompliſhment of your holy enterpriſes, From *Edinburgh* the 24. of Ianuarie. 1592.

John Che.
ſholme.
Support of
10000. crow-
nis fra the D.
of Parme.

He diſſembles
his religion
for ſeare and
pollicie.

He heſta-
bliſhed gardis a-
bout the King
at his awin de-
votion to bee
Maſter of his
perſen when
occaſion ſal
offer.

Your bienefſe maiſt humble and
affectioned Servitor,
G. Erll of Huntlie.



A Letter fra the Erle of Erroll, to the Duke of Parme, interceptit in Ianuarie, &c.

The causes of
the Papists are
inseparable,
for the K. of
Spaines ser-
vice.

MY Lord, sen God of late bee the cleir licht of his holy Catholik faith, hes chasit from my vnderstanding, the darknesse of ignorance and errour, quhairin I have bene heirtofore nurischit; I haue beene als soone perswadit in acknowledging of sa great ane effect of his divine grace towardis mee, that I am chiefly obligit to procure, sen I know the interprises of his Majestie Catholik, and your hienes tendes principally to that end, as also to the advancement of some civill cause quhilk hes verie great affinitie, and conjunction with ours heir. That I mon testifie the present, the affection that I haue to the well of the ane and the vther, having ever before my conversion bene ane of the number of your friendes and servitours for the respect of the last, to the quhilkes, the first of Religion, quhilk is the greatest and maist important that is in this World being joynit thereto, I am also become altogether yours: quhilk I besseik maist humblie your hienesse cause it signifieit to his Majestie Catholik, and to promise him in my behalse, that hee hes not in this Country a mair affectioned servant than I neither yet your Hienesse, as ze sall vnderstand mair ample of my intention in particular, be him, bee whom your Hienes shall ressaue this present. To whom after I haue maist humblie kissed your hand, I beseike the Creator to give yow the accomplishment of your holy desires, From *Edinburgh*, this 24. of Ianuarie, 1589.

*Yours bienesse maist humble and
maist affectioned Servitour
Francis Erll of Erroll.*



*A Letter fra Robert Bruce, to Monsieur Francisce Aguirre
Espaignell, &c. interceptit in Ianuarie 1589. Written in French,
and translatit in Scottis as followis.*

Monsieur de Aguirre, I have resavit your Letter, of the
nynt of November, written from Handwerp, quhairby,
I was glad to vnderstand of your arrivall thair and helth, and
that ye haue guydit your selte sa wisely in execution of al that I
committed to yow. Your Master, quha at my request hes ge-
vin yow ententement, hes givin mee the like testimony of
your behauour, and hes promisit mee bee his Letters, to have
zow in the favourable commendation I desirrit, and to employ
zow in gude occasions. Gif he lend zow heir again in this parts
cause sette you on land neare Seytoun quhair I pray zow to
enter secretly, and there ye sall be keepit quhil I may come and
finde zow.

*Therest of this missive beeing set downe in obscure times is to be sene
in the originall.*

*A Letter fra Robert Bruce to the Duke of Parme intercepted in
Ianuarie 1589. lately before the Raid of the Brig of Die, cy-
phered in French, decipherit there after, and translatit in Scottis
as followes,*

MY Lord, Monsieur Chesholme, arrayvit in this Country
five dayes after his departing from thair, and with thair
requisite dilligence, cam to the Erle of Huntly in his awn house
in Damfermling, quhair having presented to him your His-
nes Letters of the 13. of October, hee declarit amplier to him
the

Letters sent
be Iohn Che-
sholme from
the D. of Par-
me to the Erle

of Huntly, &
receavit be
him at Dum-
fermling.

10000. Crou-
nis receavit
from the D.
of Parme, be
Bruce, to be
employed for
the King of
Spaines service
in Scotland.

The money is
to be distribu-
ted among
the Catholike
Nobilitie of
Scotland.

The Erle of
Huntly, wald
haue a third
part to him-
selfe.

the credite givin him in charge, conforme to the tenour of the Letters from your Hiennesse: quhair thay perceavit your Hiennesse great humanitie and affection, to the advancement of the glory of God in this Country, with vthers consolations maist convenient, to moderat the dolour and displeasure conceavit be the heartis of the Catholiks, be reason of the succes of your Armie, against thair hope and expectation. Als wa, sum dayes thereafter as the commoditie offerit to mee to resave the money, the said *Cesholme* deliverit to me sax thousand, twa hundred, three scoire twelve Crounes of the Sunne, & three thousand sevin hundred Spainisch Pistolets: And likewise hes caried himselfe, in all his actions sensyne verie wisely; and as become a man of God, Chiefly then, quhen vpon the suspition conceavit of his sudder returning, the King sent to gar take him, I fall behave my selfe be the grace of God, in the keeping and distribution of the money last sent, and of that quhilk restes yet of the first sowme, according to your Hiennes prescription and as I ought to answer to God in conscience, and to your Hiennes in credite, and to the hail World in the reputation of an honest man: And sal minnage it in sik sort, that be the grace of God, thair fall be fruite drawin thereof, pleasant to your hiennes. It is true that I finde (as all vthers wald doe, that walde interprise sik a charge heir) my self involved in great difficulties: For on the ane part, I am in great danger of the Heretikes and of thame of the faction of *England*, be reason of the oppin profession that I make of the Catholike Religion, and of the suspition: that the last hes of my secreete practises and dealing against thame: On the vther part, I haue meekle adoe to moderate the appetite that sum Catholicke Lordis hes, to haue the money presently for the hope quhilk they give of sum pretendit occasions, that will never fall out as they promise. The Earle of Huntly, made instance to haue the third part of the sowme quhilk was sent heir, als soone as it was delyvered to me, but he hes not twitchit, nor fall not twitch hereafter a malzie but vpon gude takins. I haue payed him in the meane tyme, with inexpugnabill reasonis, quhair of in the end he is contented. I besek your Hiennes, be the first Letter it fall pleas you to write

write

write in thir partis, to the Catholicke Lordes to remove the
 errour from three, quha hes writen thair in name of the rema-
 nent, that moves them to thinke, be reason thay were the first
 that made offer of thair service to the King Catholike, that all
 the money that comes heere should be parted in thre, and im-
 mediately after the arrivall thereof delyvered to thame, with-
 out giving part to vtheris, quhilke beside thame are in great
 number to the King Catholikes service, and yours, and allwa
 deliberat to hazard after their power for the advancement of
 this cause, as thay are; of whom the vthers will not depend
 in ony sort, in the accepting of the moyans that cummes from
 your liberalitie, but acknowlege thame as comming directly
 from your Hienes, to quhome onely they will bee bound and
 obleist, and not to the vther three. Of the quhilkes, the Erle of
 Mortoun, hes hitherto contented himselfe with reason: As al-
 swa the Earle of Huntly, hes never schawin himselfe subject
 to money, bot sen he hes beene inducit be the third, to wit, my
 Lord *Claude Hamilton* his vncle, quha is sum quhat cove-
 tous of geir, and thocht vnder like pretext to make his profite.
 The saide Earle of Huntly is constrained to remaine at Court;
 he is fallin from his constancy in his outward profession of the
 Catholike Religoun, partly, for having lost all esperance of
 your support before the returning of the saide *Cheesholme*, be-
 cause of his lang stay there, partly by the perswasion of sum
 politicks, partly to eschew the perrills imminent to all thame
 that calles thameselfis Catholikes, partly to keepe himselfe in
 the favour of his King, quha preasit him greatly to subscribe
 the Confession of the Heretikes and to league with *England*.
 Bot for all this, his heart is na wise alienat from our cause: for
 he hes the Soul ever gude, albeit he haue not sik vigour to per-
 severe, and execute sik, as is requisite in sa great an enterprise:
 but thay may helpe thay defects, putting beside him a man of
 credite, resolute to assist him, as we haue advised to doe, sen the
 Barron of *Fentrie* is put in waird be the King in the Towne of
Dundie. Swa that hee darre not gang out of the Portes thereof,
 vnder the paine of a great sowme, quhill the occasion may bee
 offerit to depart the Cuntry, within the tyme limited, And I

Quhat ever
 this nobleman
 hes beine at
 this tyme, it is
 not to bee ob-
 iect it to him
 now after his
 aith and sub-
 scription.
 geven to the
 contrare.

The Earle of
 Huntly disse-
 blis his Reli-
 gion first, for
 feare and po-
 licie, after to
 work his mat-
 ters the better.

Sir James
Chesholme,
brother to
John Che-
sholme a con-
federate.

The money is
in my L. Le-
vingstonis
chiefe house,
and at Edin-
burgh, to
serve the Ca-
tholicke noble
menis turnis
that are short-
ly to assemble.

Mair money
promisit the
the Duke of
Parne.

It is meanit
that Spanishe
forces shuld
arrive in this
land.

bee the Kings Commandement, am dischargit to come neir
the said Erle: because they have attributed to the said Laird of
Fentry, and mee, his constancy in the Catholik Religion, and
his absence from Court against the Kingis will: His waivering
hes sum quhat hinderit our course, and permittes mee not to
move him, as it hes pleasit you to command mee, and as I de-
sire to dispence the money conjunctly with me: sa that for sup-
plieing of the default of him, I have associat to the same end, a
very honest man and very wise, callit Father *William Grieb-*
toun Iesuist, quha wes detenit sum yeirs in the towne of *Lon-*
doun, after hee was tane, vpon the Sea, cummand toward this
from *France*. Likewise, I sall helpe my selfe be the prudence of
Schir *James Chesholme*, eldest brother to the said *John*, quha
brought the money from your Hienesse. For hee is a man, con-
fident, wise, and on our part, and very litle suspect. In the mean
time, the ane part of the money, is in the principall house of
my Lord *Levingstoun*, a very Catholike Lord, the vther heir
in *Edinburgh*, in great enough suirtie, to helpe as it sall neid the
Lords Catholiks, quha will conveene heir very soon to resist,
to the defyinges of thame of the faction of *England*, quha in
the same time, are purposit to remaine at Court, with forces
to range all things at their fantacie. As for the like sowme or
greater, quhilk your Hienesse willis to cause follow the last sent
heir. It is good in all eventis, it were very soone sent heere, se-
cretly to help the necessitie that may fal out, & to cause things
incline to our side, quhen they are in ballance, as their is great
appearance thay will bee, be the occasioun foirsaid: And incate
that necessitie requires na distribution, the said sowme sall bee
keecipit and reservit to better occasions, or quhill the arrivall
of your forces in this Ile. Thair is suspition, as also arguments
probable anugh, that *Thomas Tyrie*, quha hes brought heir
your Hienesse Letters to our King, hes not behavit himselfe ac-
cording to his duetie: For hee hes accomodate himselfe in his
behaviour, mair after the affectioun of our Chancellor (quha is
of the faction of *England*, and abuses the credit hee hes with
the King) nor according to the instructions given him thair.
Hee hes not presentit nor made mention to the King of *Colo-*
nell

well Sempills Letter, quhairof I haue causit present the copie
 to his Majestie be the Erle Bouthwell, as gif it had beene sent
 to him withan vther of the said Colonellis to himselfe, quhilk
 hee relavit from *Thomas Tyrie* at his arryvall, quha hes repor-
 ted to the said Chancelar all that *Segneur don Bernardino* spak
 to him in *Parise* to the disadvantage of the said Chancelar.
 Als wa, hee hes reportit to the King, that my Lord Bischop
 of *Dumblane*, beeing returnit thair, spake to your Hienesse, and
 to vthers many things: to the great prejudice of his Hienes:
 And it is beleevd also, that he is the cause of the suspicious
 quhilk is conceavit of the comming of the said *Iohn Chesholm*,
 newlie to the said Bishop. However it be the vther reports
 foirsaid, quhilk he hes made, hes nor servit to conciliat, but to
 alienate the affection of the King, of the Chancelar, and mo-
 ny otheris Heretickes from the said *Segneur don Bernardino*,
 the said Bishop, and Catholickes heir, that hes had adoe
 with thame. As for mee albeit I speak not willingly to the dis-
 advantage of ony whatsomever, chiefly of thame whome I
 haue recommendit, as I did the saide *Thomas Tyrie*, to the
 said *Don Bernardino*, zet I will preferre the love of the treuth
 to men, and wald not in concealing thereof, bring prejudice to
 the publiek well, nor to the fidelitie that the an aught to vthers,
 and specially to that we aught all to the King of *Spain*, and
 your Hienesse, to quhome I am presently servand particularly
 addicted be the Obligation of five hundreth crownes of fee,
 and fourty for Monethly entertainment, quhilk it hes pleasit
 your Hienes to give mee friely in name of the King of *Spain*,
 vnbeing required for my part, nor vther thing for my particu-
 lare to this present: beereasoun quhairof, I am the man bound
 to give your Hienes maist humble thanks, and to endeavour my
 selfe to deserve be my maist humble and faithfull services, als
 weill the said entertainment, as the recompense it hes pleasit
 your hienesse to promise me of your grace and favour. The said
 gift of your liberalitie, come to me well to purpose, seing be-
 reasoun of the danger of my person, it behuifit mee to augment
 my ordinarie tryne for my greater sautie, quhilke I was not a-
 ble langer to have borne out without helpe. For from all the

They compe
 our King a-
 mangis the
 heretickes.

Bruce servand
 to the King of
 Spaine, and to
 the D. of Par-
 me, hes ane
 pensoun of
 40. crownes in
 the moneth,
 & 500. crow-
 nis of scrill.

Bruce hes ne-
gotiat in
Spaine with
the K. and in
the law coun-
tries with the
D. of Parme.

Quhat ever
this Noble-
man hes bene
at this tyme
it is not to bee
objectit to
him, now ef-
ter his aith &
subscription
given to the
contrare, gif
he remaine
constant.

Lordes of Scotland, I have not retyred but a part onely of the money, quhilk I spendit travelling, for the well of this cause in Spaine with his Majestie Catholike and with your Hiennesse in the low Countries. As for the foure hundred Crowns employed for the deliverance of Colonell Sempill out of prison, I have put in it cempt with the remanent quhilk I debursed of the first sowme, according as it hes pleasit your Hiennesse to command me. The Earle of Moroun * to quhome I have given consolation bee writ in Prison, hes instantly prayed me also, be write so remember his maist affectioned service to your hienes. Finding himself greatly honourit, be the care it pleasit yow to have of him. Be the grace of God, he is na mair in danger of his life be way of iustice; it not beeing possible to his enemies to prove against him ony thing quhilk thay had supposed in his accusatioun: As also the Kings affliction not sa farre alienate fra him as it hes bene heeretofore: And in case thay wald enoye him, or that it were presently requisite for the weill of our cause to deliver him, wee have ever moyan to gette him out of Prison, and abides not in the meane time, bot the Kings will towarde his liberty, only to avoide all persuit that thay wald make, gif wee delyvered him extraordinary. Quhen they offerit him in the Kings name his libertie, gif he wolde subscribe the confessioun of the Heretikes faith, hee answerit hee wald not doe it for the Kings Crowne, nor for a hundred thousand lives, if he had them to lose; and hes offerit to confound the Ministers be publicke disputation. I sall solieite the Lords his friends to procure of the King, his libertie verie soone: for hee importes mair the well of our cause, nor ony of the rest, be reason of his forces quhilkes are neare England, and the principall towne of Scotland, and the ordinarie residence of our King; As als wa, he is the Lord the maist resolute constant and of greatest executioun of ony of the Catholikes. It is na small marvell considering the moyanes the heretikes hes to harme vs, and thair wardly wit sa far passing ours, and thair evil will and intention against vs that wee subsist. Truly, wee cannot bot attribute the effect therof to God, quha (then when the certain newes of the returning of the Armie of Spaine be the backe of

Ireland

Ireland, were disperst through this Country, and the heretickes of the faction of *England* triumpht, and the constancie in the outward profession of the Earle of *Hunly* and others was branglit) causit the Earle of *Angus* to die, quha wes cheiffe of the English faction, and the selte same time suscitat sum dissention amangis the Hereticks, bee reason of sum offices, that sum pretendit to vsurpe aboue vthers at Court, and bee the instant prayers and haly perswasions of twa fateres Iesuites, convertit to our holy faith twa hereticke Earles of the first of authoritie and power amangis thame, the an quhair of is callit the Earle of *Erroll*, constable of *Scotland*, convertit bee Father *Edmond Hay*. The vther called the Earle of *Crawfurde*, convertit bee the said Father *William Criecheoun*. Thaye are baith able and wise young Lordes, and maist desirous to advance the Catholicke faith, and your enterprises in this Ile, quhilk they are deliberate to testifie to his Majestie Catholicke, and your Hienes by their owin Letters, quhilk be the grace of God, I sall send be the first commoditie. In the meane tyme, thay haue required me to mak yow offer of thair maist humble and maist affectioned service promising to follow quhat sum ever the said Iesuites, and I sall thinke good to bee done, for the conservation of the Catholikes, and to dispose and facilitat the executionn of your enterprises heir, quhilk thay may doe maist easily, nor thay that are knowne to bee Catholiks, qubais actions are ever suspicious to the heretikes for thair Religion, quhair of thir two Earles hes not yet made outward profession: but in that as in the rest, thay submit them selfis to our will, & to that we finde maist expedient. The saides fateres of thair company makes great fruite in *Scotland*, and sa soone as ane Lord or other person of importance is converted bee thame, they dispose and inclyne in the very meane time their affection to the service of the King of *Spaine*, and your Hienesse as a thing inseparablie conjoined with the advancement of the true Religion in this Country. Gif I had commandement of your Hienesse, I walde give thame sume litle Almons in your name, to help thame and eight vthers, quhair of foure are also Iesuits, and the vther foure, ar Iesuarie Priestes of *Pontaymes*

The King of Spain, and D. of Parme, hes interprised to bee executed in Scotland.

The Iesuits & Priestes doe great hurt in Scotland.

Heereof it is evident, that the declining to papistrie drawis with it defection fra our native Kingis obedience, to the service of the K. of Spain & D. of Parme.

The Papist
Lords did
sende bee
Creichtoun,
to move the
Spanish flot
to land in
Scotland.

in *Lorane*, quhilke are all the Ecclesiastickes, that produces sa
great spirituall fruite in *Scotland*, and acquires to zow heir lik
augmentation of your friendes and servantis. After the pair-
ting of Colonell *Sempill* from this, the Lords sent Letteris
with the said father *Creichtoun* and vther Gentlemen, after
the Armie of *Spaine*, to cause it land in this Cuntry, but it had
taken the way to *Spaine* few dayes before their arrivall at the
Iles, quhair it had refreshed the selfe: sa that it was not possi-
ble for them to attend on it. Thay of this Country, that are of
the Faction of *England*, were in a marvellous feare, during the
incertitude of the landing of the said Armie, and confesses plain-
ly, if it had landit heir, thay had bein alluterly wrakkit. The
Erle *Boithwell*, quha is Admirall of *Scotland*, and als galze-
rit a Lord as ony is in the Country, albeit hee make profession
of the new Religion, yet is he extreamly desirous to assist zow
against *England*, having listid and entertained all this Sommer,
(vnder pretext to ga dantoun the Iles) sum crowpis of men of
weir, quhilke together with his forces ordinaris suld haue ioy-
ned with yours gif thay had cummit heir. He suffers himsele
to bee peaceablie gydit be me, notwithstanding the diversity of
our Religion, and hes oftentimes said, that if the Catholickes
wald give him suirtie to possesse after the restitution of the Ca-
tholickes Religion twa Abaies quhilke he hes, that hee suld e-
ven presently bee altogether ane of ours. Hee intendes to send
the Colonell *Halkerston*, to accompanie certaine Captaines
and Gentlemen to *Spaine*, and almost foure hundreth Soule-
ours, all saide from the Nawfrage in our Iles. And because thay
are in great necessitie, he is purposed to accomod thame with
Ships, victuals, and vther things necessare, to restifie thair by
to the King of *Spaine*, the affection hee hes to doe him maist
humble and affectioned service: And gif we think it good, hee
offerit himsele to ga out of the Country, and to ga offer him-
sele to your Hiennesse, in the law Countries, and be your advise
thairafter, doe the like to his Majestie Catholike in *Spaine*. Bot
heerevpon, wee sall advise vpon the maist expedient: Gif wee
may alwayes be assurit of him, he will bee alse profitable for the
well of our cause, as ony Lord in *Scotland*: For he hes great
depen-

dependance about this towne, quhilke is the principall of Scotland, as alwa, vpon the fronterris of England. Hee hes offered to maintaine and defend me against all that wold attempt against me, Wee haue chosen for every Catholike Lord a Gentleman of the wisest and faithfull Catholikes, and belovit of their friends: to serve thame of a Counsell, and to conveen at all occasions, to resolve the maist expedient that may concern the well of our cause, according to the will and intention of thair Lordis, quha hes obleist thame selfis to approve & execute thair resolutions, and nawise to contraveine the same. And bee that moyan, we hope to proceede with greater soliditie and effect: than wee have done heirtofore, Alwayes thir shall know nothing of our intelligences thair, nor our finall intentiones, bot according to the exigence of the effaires shall be in hand, and that superficially, and without discovering our selfis over farre. Your Hiennesse shall vnderstand bee the particulare Letters of the Lordis, that quhilke restes to bee said to yow by thir presentis: Be resoun quhair of, I will make end. maist humbly kissing your Hienes handis: And prayand God to give yow all the gude hope and felicitie ye desire, From Edinburgh, the 24. of Ianuarie 1589.

A counsell of chosen men for every Catholike Lord are created be Bruce, for the execution of Catholike interprises.

*Your Hiennesse maist humble and
maist affectioned servitor
Robert Bruce,*

